



St Stephen

a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Rev. Robert G. Schaefer, Pastor



Encouraging and strengthening faith in Jesus,
and sharing the joy of God's love.

August 1, 2021

The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

10:15am

Holy Eucharist

Introduction

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.



Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and turns to the font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin.

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,

things we have done and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit,

**so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven + all your sins and loved into abundant life. Amen.

GATHERING SONG: Glorious Things of You are Spoken ELW# 647

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet each other.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Glory to God ELW, page 185-186

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept, then the presiding minister leads the prayer.

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly sits.



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

FIRST READING: Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer

of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat."

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 78: 23-29

²³So God commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven,

²⁴**raining down manna upon them to eat
and giving them grain from heaven.**

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels;
God provided for them food enough.

²⁶**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and powerfully led out the south wind,**

²⁷raining down flesh upon them like dust
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

²⁸**letting them fall in the midst of the camp
and round about the dwellings.**

²⁹So the people ate and were well filled,
for God gave them what they craved.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4: 1-16

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people."

⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

After a brief silence, the assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 6: 24-25

P: † The Holy Gospel, according to John.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves." ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit,
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition of the prayer is said:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God,
confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The assembly sits.



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING/Music

The assembly stands.

OFFERING SONG: All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW# 461

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

ELW, page 207

The presiding minister continues to give thanks:

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness...

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

... now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

Communion

The bread is broken for the communion.

P: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come to the banquet!

The assembly is seated.

Lamb of God

ELW, page 182-183

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assembly stands and the assisting minister leads the prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal of your very body and blood, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life; for you are Lord forever and ever.

Amen.



Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements**BLESSING**

All may make the sign of the cross as they receive God's blessing.

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly turns toward the cross as it passes by.

SENDING SONG:

Rise, We are All One in Christ

ELW# 643

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

**WELCOME!**

In response to the amazing love, mercy and grace of God, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community that openly welcomes all who are seeking God's divine love and grace. All are welcome in this place regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic situation or life situation, marital or relationship status, or your doubts about faith and church. Our unity is in Christ. Your family, children, friends, spouses and partners are welcome. Your diversity and uniqueness enriches and expands our community. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation.

IN OUR PRAYERS...

In our prayers today we remember those who are homebound and others in our parish family in need of healing: Pat Belanger, Chris and Karin Hecker, Jim Loggins, George Arce, Eric Hecker, Carol Zurick, Madeline Lombardi, Katie Paff, Scott Possiel, Shirley Wilson, Roger Hinkley, Constance Brown, Natalie Prego, Dolores Lauterberg, Laurel Blake, Dorothy Johnson, Don Schutt, Mildred Grady, Rosie and Jimmy Fennelli.

PRAYERS FOR FRIENDS OF THE PARISH

✠ Hannah, Therese, Craig, Nettie, Gaige, Aiden, Braemen, Chandler, Cheryl, Robert, Taylor, Becky, Jerry, Carol, Janice, Barbara, Laurel, Dorothy, Bob, grandma, all those suffering from COVID, our country
✠✠ Clara, Gene, Chris, Amanda, Annette, Madison, Mason, Joe, Betty, Chuck, Joanna, Susan, Betty, Donna, Denny, Bill. ✠✠✠ Greg, Gina, Maria, Shirley, Carol, Randy, Jason, Melissa, Jon, Camille, Carolyne, Jim, Desi, and Jane

IN A FACILITY OR HOMEBOUND:

Evelyn Braun – 6152 Verde Trail Room 106 Boca Raton, Fl. 33433
Jim Loggins - John Knox Village – Woodlands
700 SW 4th St, Pompano Beach, FL 33060

Worship Commission Meeting today...

The worship commission is meeting following the Liturgy today in the Luther Room. You are welcome to join us if you would like to contribute to the worship life of St. Stephen.

Please wear your name tag

Especially in light of the long separation many of us have experienced, wear your St. Stephen name tag to church whenever you are here and especially on Sunday. It's the best way to make sure everyone knows your name! If you need a name tag, please feel free to let an usher or Rosie Fennelli know with the exact way you would like your name to appear.

Change for Change in August and September:

The Holy Grill and Holy Provisions

For the next two months we will use the Change for Change Tower to focus on the needs of our local ministry at St. Stephen with the Holy Grill. As you know, in partnership with St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, we feed and clothe the hungry and people in need each Wednesday in front of the church. Breakfast and dinner are served each week thanks to the Holy Grill food truck. In addition, St. Stephen members staff and care for a clothing distribution ministry during the Wednesday breakfast. We will be collecting specific needs over the next two months for this important ministry. The complete list was in this week's E-Newsletter and on the table in the back of the church. If you cannot shop for these items, you may put a monetary gift in the Change for Change tower and we will purchase items.

Fellowship following worship returns August 8.

At the recent Socializing Commission meeting it was decided that we are ready to return to a modified regular weekly time of fellowship and refreshments following our Sunday Eucharist! This ministry will make a regular return in a modified way on Sunday, August 8. The plan at the start is to do this with store bought items every other Sunday. We will be looking for volunteers who will help with this ministry. Please speak with Carol Jacobson if you would like to help.

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